

From: **American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra**

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***For Immediate Release***

## **AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA APPOINTS DANIELLE AMES SPIVAK AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**New York, NY – Jan. 3, 2019** – The American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (AFIPO) announced today that the board, following a unanimous vote in December, has appointed Danielle Ames Spivak as Executive Director, effective immediately.

“Danielle is exuberant and passionate about the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra,” said David A. Hirsch, President of the Board of the American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. “Danielle’s genuine love for Israel and the arts, together with her strategic thinking and impeccable execution will make her an exemplary Executive Director.”

“The Israel Philharmonic creates profoundly brilliant experiences for diverse audiences in Israel, America and around the world,” said Ames Spivak. “Our patrons inspire me each day to continue to expand our presence in North America as an impactful way for people to support Israel and connect to Jewish culture.”

She added: “I am proud to represent an orchestra that is an industry leader in the areas of artistic excellence and music education. I have had the pleasure of working with Zubin Mehta and our dedicated board and staff over the past several years and I am thrilled to be continuing to do so in the role of Executive Director.”

Since 2011, Ames Spivak has worked with the AFIPO in the role of West Coast Director. Previously, she worked for the American Friends of the Israel Museum.

Ames Spivak holds a B.A. in Political Science and Art History from McGill University and an M.A. in Museum Studies from New York University. A native of Vancouver, Ames Spivak resides in Los Angeles.

The AFIPO is the North American support organization for the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO). The IPO is the leading orchestra in Israel and globally recognized as a world-class symphonic ensemble. The IPO will kick off its 2019 U.S. Tour on Feb. 2. The six-city tour will mark Maestro Zubin Mehta’s final U.S. tour before he retires as Music Director of the IPO in 2019, leaving behind a legacy of exceptional musicianship and humanitarianism.

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### **About AFIPO**

American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra believes that music can move the world. The organization maintains an unwavering commitment to supporting the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in its concert performances throughout Israel and on global tours as Israel's primary cultural ambassador. They also help sustain the orchestra's expansive music education programs for participants of all ages and backgrounds. With legendary Maestro Zubin Mehta at the helm for nearly 50 years, the orchestra is a vibrant ensemble of over 100 gifted musicians. Israeli conductor Lahav Shani will assume the position of Music Director in the 2019-2020 concert season and usher in a new era for the orchestra. For more information about the AFIPO, please visit [afipo.org](http://afipo.org).